

Appendix A

1. A computer-implemented process operable to manage a distributed workflow:
the computer-implemented process operable to store a set of predefined functions for a workflow that are to be performed at a plurality of distributed nodes; and
the computer-implemented process operable to automatically interact with the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to perform the predefined functions.
2. The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to generate a workflow between a plurality of enterprises.
3. The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to transmit data associated with operation of the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to a monitoring system.
4. The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to deploy the workflow to the distributed nodes.

5. A computer-implemented process for generating a collaboration between a plurality of enterprises, the computer-implemented process operating at least in part external to the enterprises, the computer-implemented process operable to:

receive a preliminary collaboration from a first enterprise;

automatically transmit the preliminary collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined second enterprise for review;

receive a response to the preliminary collaboration from the second enterprise;

automatically transmit the response of the second enterprise from the computer-implemented process to the first enterprise for review; and

receive a response to the response of the second enterprise from the first enterprise, the responses of the first and second enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first and second enterprises.

6. The process of Claim 5, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a comment on the preliminary collaboration.

7. The process of Claim 5, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a modification of the preliminary collaboration.

Claims 8 and 9 were cancelled previously.

10. The process of Claim 5, further operable to;
receive an approval from each of the first and second enterprises for a collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and reflecting the responses of the first and second enterprises;
subsequent to receiving the approvals from the first and second enterprises, automatically transmit the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined third enterprise for review;

receive a response to the collaboration from the third enterprise;
automatically transmit the response of the third enterprise from the computer-implemented process to the first and second enterprises for review; and

receive responses to the response of the third enterprise from the first and second enterprises, the responses of the first, second, and third enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first, second, and third enterprises.

11. The process of Claim 10, wherein the response of the third enterprise comprises a comment on the collaboration.

12. The process of Claim 10, wherein the response of the third enterprise comprises a modification to the collaboration.

Claims 13 and 14 were cancelled previously.

15. A computer-implemented process for deploying a collaboration generated by a first enterprise to a plurality of other enterprises, the computer-implemented process operating at least in part external to the enterprises, the computer-implemented process operable to:

receive a final collaboration approved by first, second, and third enterprises;
automatically transmit a predefined first part of the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined second enterprise for operation at the second enterprise; and
automatically transmit a predefined second part of the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined third enterprise for operation at the third enterprise.

16. The process of Claim 15, further operable to:
request an approval from the second enterprise for operation of the first part of the collaboration at a node of the second enterprise; and
request an approval from the third enterprise for operation of the second part of the collaboration at a node of the third enterprise.

17. The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving the approval from the second enterprise, notify the third enterprise of the approval.

18. The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving the approvals from the second and third enterprises, transmit a signal to the second and third enterprises to operate the first and second parts of the collaboration, respectively.

19. The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving approvals to operate the collaboration from all enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted, transmit a signal to all of the enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted to operate the corresponding transmitted parts of the collaboration.

20. A computer-implemented process for monitoring a collaboration across a plurality of enterprises, the computer-implemented process operating at least in part external to the enterprises, the computer-implemented process operable to:

receive a first predefined set of data associated with operation of a first portion of the collaboration at a first node of a first enterprise, the first set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the first node for the first set of data;

automatically transmit the first set of data from the computer-implemented process to a monitoring system in response to the querying of the first node;

receive a second predefined set of data associated with operation of a second portion of the collaboration at a second node of a second enterprise, the second set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the second node for the second set of data; and

automatically transmit the second set of data from the computer-implemented process to the monitoring system in response to the querying of the second node.

Claims 21-47 were previously withdrawn from consideration.

48. A system for generating a collaboration between a plurality of enterprises, the system operating at least in part external to the plurality of enterprises, the computer-implemented process comprising:

means for receiving a preliminary collaboration from a first enterprise;

means for automatically transmitting the preliminary collaboration to a predefined second enterprise for review;

means for receiving a response to the preliminary collaboration from the second enterprise;

means for automatically transmitting the response of the second enterprise to the first enterprise for review; and

means for receiving a response to the response of the second enterprise from the first enterprise, the responses of the first and second enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first and second enterprises.